

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D. for the telephone interview on December 7, 2009 to discuss the particular claim amendments to claims 3, 4, and 16 to place the present application in condition for allowance.

The Office has objected for claims 3, 4, and 16 under 37 CFR 1.75 because some of the recited sequence identification numbers are identical. More specifically, claim 3 stands objected to because SEQ ID NO: 2 is 100% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 6, 7, 12 and 45. Claim 3 also stands objected to because SEQ ID NO: 18 is 100% identical to SEQ ID NO: 39. Claim 4 stands objected to because this claim includes duplicative polynucleotide sets. Claim 16 stands objected to because SEQ ID NO: 2 is 100% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 6, 7, 12 and 45. Claim 16 also stands objected to because SEQ ID NO: 18 is 100% identical to SEQ ID NO: 39.

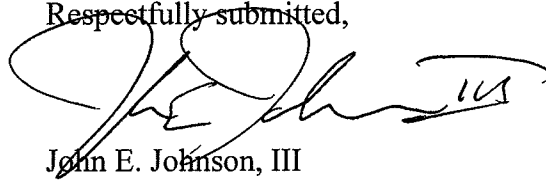
As such, claims 3, 4, and 16 have each been amended to remove the recitation of duplicative sequence identification numbers. Applicants submit that these amendments overcome the objections to claims 3, 4, and 16. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments place the application in immediate condition for allowance. As such, Applicants earnestly request that the Office enter the foregoing claim amendments, withdraw all rejections, and issue a formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented. Claims 1-4 and 8-16 are currently pending.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks made above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application or the comments herein, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Application No.: 10/500,586
Amendment Dated December 7, 2009
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Johnson, III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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